

Road of the Pilgrims

Joyful Motherhood

A magazine for young ladies aspiring to be mothers and housewives someday!

See page 26



First quarter 5764 Yahweh's calendar
(Second quarter 2003 Roman calendar)

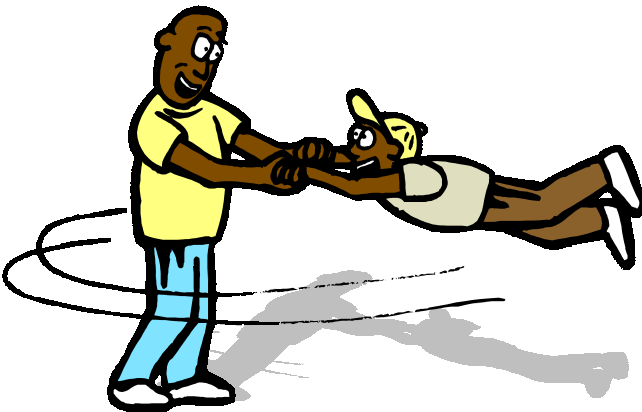
Please take note:

1. For anybody who would like to submit any writings to this publication, we ask that you please let us change "God", etc. to the Hebrew Names. Of course we can add a note saying that we changed them with permission, if you like. There was a time that I used the words "God" and "Jesus" in my walk with the Saviour, and I was very sincere. Sadly, I even thought it was stupid for someone to be convicted that the Father ought to be called Yahweh instead of God. Yahweh forgive me. The Proverbs tell us, "He that speaketh a matter before he heareth it, to him it is folly and shame." I did not know; I spoke without knowing. Yet I was sincere using titles such as Jesus, Christ, and God. And for those of you who are sincere doing the same, and who have not been convicted to change over to the Hebrew Names, we do not 'hold a grudge against you' for that; we simply prefer that the original Names be used in this publication.

2. The next issue will be a special one. It is going to be a "Mission Edition". Its theme will be "Shining For Yahshua". For those of you who are interesting in submitting writings, I am looking for articles, stories, poems, quotes, Scriptures, etc. that fit in with the theme of shining for Him, whether it be in the home, in the community, or elsewhere. The home and the community are very important mission fields, ones that are often forgotten. I have already written an article for this edition, a Scripture lesson for young children, and a Scripture lesson for older children/young people; and I also have a poem that I like, and quotes and Scriptures. I have a friend who is going to try to write another poem. Let's Look At The Scriptures will be continued, Yahweh willing, focusing on the missionary aspect. If anybody has any writings they would like to submit, I look forward to hearing from you. As far as I know, the Mission Edition will not have specific pages such as "Housewives' / Mothers' Page", etc. There will be a "Children's Page". There will be no "Science With The Scriptures"; nor will there be a "Missionary Column", as the whole issue will be on missionary related things.

I think that is all. Blessings, the editress, Bekah Josepha

(I sign letters to friends, "Bekah Josepha". You are my friends.)



The pictures
in this issue were
chosen by Lydia.
T h a n k - y o u ,
Lydia.

Scripture - Let Us Study

Due to the fact that "Bible" simply means, in its literal form, "book", (and I have also heard that it originates from pagan sources... However, I have not looked into this.) I have changed this section to "Scripture - Let Us Study". The title now has much more meaning. Instead of "[Book] - Let Us Read", it is now "Scripture - Let Us Study". You will notice that the page "Science With The Bible" has changed its name too. Blessings, Rebekah Josepha

Let's Look At The Scriptures part 3

I encourage each and every one of you to get a copy of the so called "Apocrypha". I am not referring to "The Lost Books of the Bible". Indeed, many of these are very perverse in nature. I am talking about the "Apocrypha", most of which was included in the 1611 edition of the "King James Version". People will read novels, poetry books, Josephus, and many other things, while letting the "Apocrypha", part of the inspired Word of Yahweh, fall by the wayside. I beseech you, brethren and sisters, to stand up and help break the mold. Reclaim this treasure! Love, Rebekah Josepha

Tobit

Tobit 4 This chapter is so beautiful. Tobit, a righteous, Yahweh-fearing man, instructs his son in the ways of righteousness. He tells him to respect his mother, to be mindful of Yahweh and to live uprightly, and to give to the poor. He warns him against fornication and tells him what kind of woman to marry. He tells him to be fair and to not drink too much wine. He says, "At all times bless Yahweh Elohim, and ask Him that your ways may be made straight and that all your paths and plans may prosper. For none of the nations has understanding, but Yahweh Himself will give them good counsel; but if He

chooses otherwise, He casts down to deepest hades. So now, my child, remember these commandments, and do not let them be erased from your heart." He ends his speaking by telling his son of the true wealth that comes from Yahweh when we "fear Yahweh and flee from every sin and do what is good in the sight of Yahweh your Elohim."

Judith

Judith 8:24-27 vs. 24 See 1 Timothy 4:12.

vs. 25 See 1 Thessalonians 5:18

vs. 27 See Proverbs 3:11-12 and Hebrews 12:1-14.

Esther (In the 1611 edition of the "KJV", there is found the Book of Esther in what is called "the old testament". Then when we come to the so called "apocrypha", we see a remainder of chapter ten of Esther and additional chapters 11-16. In the *Cambridge Annotated Study Apocrypha*, "the Greek Version" of the Book of Esther, "Containing the Additional Chapters" is written. The chapters are in a seemingly very odd order, the reason supposedly being as follows: "**Note:**

"The disordered chapter numbers come from the displacement of the additions to the end of the canonical Book of Esther by Jerome in his Latin translation and from subsequent division of the Scriptures into chapters by Stephen Langton, who numbered the additions consecutively as though they formed a direct continuation of the Hebrew text. So that the additions may be read in their proper context, the whole of the Greek version is here translated, though certain familiar names are given according to their Hebrew rather than their Greek form; for example, Mordecai and Vashti instead of Mardocheus and Astin. The order followed is that of the Greek text, but the chapter and verse numbers conform to those of the King James or Authorized Version. The additions, conveniently indicated by the letters A - F, are located as follows: A, before 1:1; B, after 3:13; C and D, after 4:17; E, after 8:12; F, after 10:3.")

Esther 11:2-12 (*one of additions more correctly located near the beginning of the book*)

Poetry (While there may be poetry in the other books too, I have chosen to list only these

two under *Poetry*.)

The Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 Light and peace. A good destiny.

Ecclesiasticus (The Wisdom of Yahshua, son of Sirach.... also called Sirach) 1:14 I see great beauty in this verse. Parents, train your children in wisdom and faithfulness from young up. Do not despise one day of their baby lives, their toddler years, their youth. Train them in the way. (See Deuteronomy 6, especially verses 6-9, and also Proverbs 22:6.)

Is anyone familiar with the Book of Jeremiah? Do you remember Baruch, Jeremiah's scribe?

Baruch

Baruch 3:9 "Hear the Commandments of Life, O Israel; give ear, and learn wisdom!" Baruch 4:1-4 "She is the Book of the Commandments of Yahweh, the Law that endures forever. All who hold her fast will live, and those who forsake her will die. Turn, O Jacob, and take her; walk toward the shining of her light. Do not give your esteem to another, or your advantages to [a strange nation]. Happy are we, O Israel, for we

know what is pleasing to Yahweh."

The Letter of Jeremiah (This seems to be a continuation of *Baruch*. *Baruch* is written as ending on chapter 5, and *The Letter of Jeremiah* as being chapter 6. It may be that these books were supposed to be a part of the Book of Jeremiah, rather than being separate identities.)

The Letter of Jeremiah 6:1-7 Israel was obviously unfaithful, so they were taken to Babylon. And yet Jeremiah is still speaking to them, telling them, "Be faithful to Yahweh." Some people seem to think that it is too late for them. It is too late for them when the door is shut. But we all tend to do this. I know I do. I will sometimes have a lot of hope and determination to do what is right, at the beginning of my daylight hours, but then as the day wears on, and I make mistakes, it is hard to keep that zeal. We must remember to not say, "It is too late", but to press forward, no matter how hard the path. We must say in our hearts, "It is You, O Yahweh, whom we must worship." (The Letter of Jeremiah 6:6)

The Prayer of AzariYah

and The Song of The Three [Hebrews] (This would more correctly be part of the Book of DaniEl, placed between verses 23 and 24 of chapter 3.)

The Prayer of AzariYah verses 15-22 Compare this to Psalm 51:16-17.

The Song of the Three [Hebrews] verse 66-68 "Bless Yahweh, HananiYah, AzariYah, and MishaEl; sing praise to Him and highly exalt Him forever. For He has rescued us from hades and saved us from the power of death, and delivered us from the midst of the burning fiery furnace; from the midst of the fire He has delivered us. Give thanks to Yahweh, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever. All who worship Yahweh, bless the Elohim of elohim, sing praise to Him and give thanks to Him, for His mercy endures forever." (See Psalm 36:1-2.)

Susanna (The commonly carried Scriptures present the Book of Daniel with 12 chapters. However, when we look at the so called "Apocrypha", we see that the Greek version of the Book of Daniel has 14 chapters, *Susanna* being chapter 13. I wonder, was this maybe how the original

Hebrew manuscript was written also?)

Susanna verses 1-3 "There was a man living in Babylon whose name was Joakim. He married the daughter of HilkiYah, named Susanna, a very beautiful woman and one who feared Yahweh. Her parents were righteous, and had trained their daughter according to the Law of Moses." How beautiful! These were parents who trained their daughter well. They did not say they couldn't; they put their effort into training her to be a child of the Most High, and indeed they were rewarded.

Bel and the Dragon (Chap. 14 of the Greek version of DaniEl)

Bel and the Dragon verses 31-42 This is a must read! Question: How many times was Daniel thrown in a lion's den? Read this passage of Scripture before you answer.

Maccabees

1 Maccabees 2:49-70 Mattathias gives his sons instruction before he dies. Notice what he says concerning the Law. "Now, my children, show zeal for the Law, and give your lives for the covenant of our

ancestors." (vs. 50) He reminds them of righteous men of the past, and then says, "And so observe, from generation to generation, that none of those who put their trust in Him will lack strength. Do not fear the words of sinners, for their splendor will turn into dung and worms. Today they will be exalted, but tomorrow they will not be found, because they will have returned to the dust, and their plans will have perished. My children, be courageous and grow strong in the Law, for by it you will gain honor." (vs. 61-64) He finishes, "...obey the Commands of the Law."

2 Maccabees 9:1-12 Proud Antiochus is punished by Yahweh and finally breaks down and says, "It is right to be subject to Yahweh; mortals should not think that they are equal to Yahweh." (vs. 12)

3 Maccabees 2:1-20 The High Priest Simeon humbly prays to Yahweh for deliverance.

4 Maccabees 5:20-21 "...to transgress the Law in matters either small or great is of equal seriousness, for in either case the Law is equally despised."

Esdras

1 Esdras 1:1-23 (See also 2 Kings 23:21-23 and 2 Chronicles 35:1-19.) JosiYah, with Israel and Judah, keeps the Passover.

2 Esdras 7:44
"Intemperancy is at an end, infidelity is cut off, righteousness is grown, and truth is sprung up." Isn't this beautiful?!

The Prayer of Manasseh

The Prayer of Manasseh verse 11 "And now I bend the knee of my heart, imploring You for Your kindness." May our hearts bow before Yahweh.
verses 12-15 Though we are unworthy, yet we can be justified. Let us serve Yahweh with our lives, with our whole beings

Psalm 151 (David)

Psalm 151 "I was small among my brothers, and the youngest in my father's house; I tended my father's sheep. My hands made a harp; my fingers fashioned a lyre. And who will tell my Yahweh? Yahweh Himself; it is He who hears. It was He who sent His messenger and took me from my father's sheep, and anointed me with His anointing oil. My brothers were handsome and tall, but Yahweh

was not pleased with them. I [shame] from the people of
went out to meet the Philistine, Israel."
and he cursed me by his idols.
But I drew his own sword; I
beheaded him, and took away

Articles

Have It In Your Heart

by Rebekah Josepha Coover - age 13

Have it in your heart. Have what in your heart? What are some things that your heart is attached to? Take the time to think about it. Do these things please Yahweh? *“Therefore brethren, whether ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the esteem of Yahweh.”* (1 Corinthians 10:31) And are we pleasing Yahweh in all that we do? What are our hearts attached to? *“Search me, O Yahweh, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if wicked way in me, and lead me in the Way everlasting.”* (Psalm 139:23-24) We all make mistakes. This would be a good

prayer for each of us. What things are in our hearts that do not please Yahweh? If you could have a picture of your heart, would it be all white, or would there be smudges in it? How many? How dark? *“Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before Mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together saith Yahweh: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be*

willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land” (Isaiah 1:16-19) Are we clean? righteous? white as snow? willing? obedient?

What are our hearts attached to. Are they attached to Yahweh's Word? That is what we are going to talk about. Do we love Yahweh's Law?

1. What does Yahweh require of us?

“*And now, Israel, what doth Yahweh thy Elohim require of thee, but to fear Yahweh thy Elohim, to walk in all His Ways, and to love Him, and to serve Yahweh thy Elohim with all thy heart and with all thy soul, to keep the Commandments of Yahweh, and His Statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?” (Deuteronomy 10:12-13) That is not much, is it?*

2. Many times Yahweh is portrayed as "the harsh God of the Old Testament", while Yahshua (or "Jesus") is a sweet gentle love who accepts everything. Is this true?

“*But now thus saith Yahweh that created thee, O Jacob, and He that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called by thy name:*

*thou art Mine. When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. For I Yahweh thy Elohim, the Set-apart One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. Since thou wast precious in My sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life. Fear not: for I will be with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west; I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth; every one that is called by My Name: for I have created him for my esteem, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.” Doth not this sound merciful? And these are the words of Yahweh, from Isaiah 43:1-7. And again in Isaiah 55:6-7. “*Seek ye Yahweh while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto Yahweh,**

and He will have mercy upon him, and to our Elohim, for He will abundantly pardon.” Do you want another one? “Say unto them, As I live, saith Yahweh, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?” (Ezekiel 33:11) And how about this commonly known one? Do people truly know what it means when they quote it? “For Yahweh so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting Life.” (John 3:16) Is not Yahweh quite merciful?

“O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.” (Matthew 12:34) “But when He had turned about and looked on His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, “Get thee behind Me, satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of Yahweh, but the things that be of men.” (Mark 8:33) So.... the next time someone wants to tell you that Yahweh is harsh and Yahshua is all mercy and love, share these

Scriptures with them. Do not do it in a know-it-all-ish way; just humbly help them see their error.

“I and My Father are One.” (John 10:30)

3. Is "the Law" several Books in "the Old Testament"?

Examples of Yahweh's Laws: *“Neither shall ye profane My Holy Name, but I will be Hallowed among the children of Israel: I Yahweh which hallow you, that brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your Elohim: I Yahweh.” (Exodus 22:32-33) But cleave unto Yahweh your Elohim, as ye have done unto this day. Take good heed therefore unto your souls, that ye love Yahweh your Elohim. Now therefore, fear Yahweh, and serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt: and serve ye Yahweh. Now, therefore, put away the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto Yahweh Elohim of Israel. And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of Yahweh, and took a great stone, and set it up there, under an oak that was by the Sanctuary of Yahweh.” (Joshua*

23:8,11;24:14,23,26) “Sing aloud unto Yahweh our strength: make a joyful noise unto the Elohim of Jacob.” (Psalm 81:1) “Be still, and know that I am Yahweh.” (Psalm 46:10) “Be ye not as the horse, as the mule which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee. Be glad in Yahweh, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart.” (Psalm 32:9,11) **Many people, in "accepting" the Psalms as "part of the valid Scriptures" :-(, read right over them, their eyes shut to the many doctrines therein.** “Remove not the old landmark, and enter not into the fields of the fatherless; For their Redeemer is Mighty; He shall plead their cause with thee.” Don't look ahead just yet. Try to guess where that law came from. Deuteronomy? Exodus? Wrong. It came from the Book of Proverbs, chapter 23, verses 10 and 11. “Therefore, turn thou to thy Elohim; keep mercy and judgment, and wait on thy Elohim continually.” (Hosea 12:6) “... whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.” (Matthew

5:28) *If you are interested, Matthew 5 is a wonderful chapter of expounding on the Law, that is, speaking of even MORE regulations.* “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of Yahweh.” (John 3:3) “Know ye not that ye are the temple of Yahweh, and the Spirit of Yahweh dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of Yahweh, him shall Yahweh destroy; for the temple of Yahweh is holy, which ye are. Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.” (1 Corinthians 3:16-18) Here is one I really like: “Whether, therefore, ye eat, or drink, or whatever ye do, do all to the esteem of Yahweh.” (1 Corinthians 10:31) “Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this is the will of Yahweh in HaMashiach Yahweh concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very Elohim of peace sanctify you wholly; and your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved

blameless unto the coming of our Supreme Yahshua HaMashiach. Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24)

So... are our hearts set on Yahweh. If we are not keeping His Law, how can we please Him? Grant it, it is hard to always do what is right, and we do make mistakes, but are our hearts set on pleasing Him? Do we find ourselves wanting to do what we want, rather than what is His perfect will? (Confession on my part! :- () Do we do this with "small issues"? Yahshua blesses the one who has "*been faithful over a few things*", and continues to say, "*I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Ruler.*" (Matthew 25:23)

Is Yahweh's Law in our hearts? "*I delight in the Law of Yahweh...*" A psalm? TaNaK? Romans 7:22 - "*For **I delight in the Law of Yahweh** after the inward man.*"

As you read the following passage of Scripture, notice how many Laws there are in it. "*If ye then be risen with Messiah, seek*

those things which are above, where Messiah sitteth on the right hand of Yahweh: Set your affection on things above, not on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Messiah in Yahweh. When Messiah, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in splendor. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth: fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: for which things sake the wrath of Yahweh cometh on the children of disobedience, in the which ye also walked sometime, when ye lived in them. But now you also put off all these, anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the renewed man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him, where there is neither Greek, nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond, nor free: but Messiah is all, and in all. Put on therefore as the elect of Yahweh, set apart and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of

mind, meekness, long suffering, forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Messiah forgave you, so also ye. And above all these things love, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of Yahweh rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body: and be ye thankful. Let the word of Messiah dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with [thanks] in your hearts to Yahweh. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, all in the Name of the Ruler Yahshua, giving thanks to Yahweh and the Father by Him. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husband, as it is fit in Yahweh. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things; for this is well-pleasing unto Yahweh. Fathers, provoke not your children, lest they be discouraged. Servants, obey in all things your rulers according to the flesh; not with eye service, as men-pleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing Yahweh. And whatever ye do,

do heartily, as to Yahweh, and not unto men, knowing that of Yahweh ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance; for ye serve Yahshua Messiah. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done, and there is no respect of persons. Rulers, give unto your servants that which is just and equal, knowing that ye also have a Ruler in heaven. Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving, praying also for us, that Yahweh would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Messiah, for which I am also in bonds; that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be always with [favour], seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.” (Colossians 3:1 - 4:6)

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The Poem Page

It's In The Valleys I Grow

"Here is a poem I thought you would like.... someone sent it to me, and it blessed me, so here it is. Enjoy!" -Samantha L.

Sometimes life seems hard to bear,
Full of sorrow, trouble and woe,
It's then I have to remember
That it's in the valleys I grow.

If I always stayed on the mountain top
And never experienced pain,
I would never appreciate [Yahweh's] love
And would be living in vain.

I have so much to learn
And my growth is very slow,
Sometimes I need the mountain tops,
But it's in the valleys I grow.

I do not always understand
Why things happen as they do,
But I am very sure of one thing.
My [Ruler] will see me through.

My little valleys are nothing
When I picture [Yahshua] on the [tree].
He went through the valley of death;
His victory was satan's [defeat].

Forgive me, [Yah], for complaining
When I'm feeling so very low.
Just give me a gentle reminder
That it's in the valleys I grow.

Continue to strengthen me, [Yah],
And use my life each day
To share your love with other
And help them find their way.
Thank-you for the valleys, [Yah],
For this one thing I know:
The mountain tops are beautiful,
But it's in the valley I grow.

-Author Unknown

Remember... The shortest distance between a
problem and a solution is the distance between your
knees and the floor. The one who kneels to [Yahweh]
can stand up to anything.

-Author Unknown

"If your problem is bigger than your [Elohim], then
you are serving the wrong [elohim] ... remember that
knees that bend don't shake!"

-Rev. Dr. P. L. Williams

Thank you, Samantha, for the poems and quotes!

In Messiah, Rebekah / the editress

**Read More poems online at
www.JoyInTheWorld.info/poems.**

The Menfolks Page

Menfolk, here is the touching account of a martyr who set a courageous and wonderful example for those following in his footsteps. May the men whom Yahweh has chosen as His own, and all whom Yahweh has chosen, be as this man was. I have typed it up the way it was written (Old English). For your better understanding of this writing, please remember that "f" is sometimes used instead of "s", that "u" is used where we would use "v", "v" is used where we would use "u", and there are some other minor differences in spelling.

Faithful Forever

Eleazer one of the principall Scribes, an aged man, and of a well faouered countenance, was constrained to open his mouth, and to eate swines flesh. But he chusing rather to die gloriously, then to liue stained with such an abomination, spit it forth, and came of his owne accord to the torment, As it behoued them to come, that are resolute to stand out against such things, as are not lawfull for loue of life to be tasted. But they that had the charge of that wicked feast, for the olde acuaintance they had with the man, taking him aside, besought him to bring flesh of his owne prouision, such as was lawfull for him to vse, and make as if he did eate of the flesh, taken from the sacrifice commanded by the king, That in so doing hee might bee deliuered from death, and for the olde friendship with them, find fauour. But he began to consider discreetly, and as became his age, and the excellencie of his ancient yeeres, and the honour of his gray head, whereunto hee was come, and his most honest education from a child, or rather the holy lawe made, and giuen by Yahweh: therefore hee answered accordingly, and willed them straightwaies to send him to the graue. For it becommeth not our age, said he, in any wise to dissemble, whereby many yong persons might thinke, that Eleazer being fourescore yeres old and ten, were now gone to a strange religion, And so they through mine hypocrisie, and desire to liue a litle time, and a moment longer, should bee deceiued by me, and I get

a staine to mine olde age, and make it abominable. For though for the present time I should be deliuered from the punishment of men: yet should I not escape the hand of the Almighty, neither aliuie nor dead. Wherefore now manfully changing this life, I will shew my selfe such an one, as mine age requireth, And leaue a notable example to such as bee yong, to die willingly, and couragiously, for the honourable and holy lawes: and when he had said these words, immediatly he went to the torment, They that led him, changing the good will they bare him a litle before, into hatred, because the foresaid speaches proceeded as they thought, from a desperate minde. But when hee was readie to die with stripes, he groned, and said, It is manifest unto Yahweh, that hath the holy knowledge, that wheras I might haue bin deliuered from death, I [now] endure sore paines in body, by being beaten: but in soule am well content to suffer these things, because I feare him. And thus this man died, leauing his death for an example of a noble courage, and a memoriall of vertue not only vnto yong men, but vnto all his nation.

Did you find it fairly easy to read? It takes some getting used to. :-) This was taken from the 1611 edition of the King James Version of the Scriptures.

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Prayer Request Corner

Please pray for the Nesser family. Our dear friend and brother Matthew Nesser recently fell asleep in Yahshua. Please pray for his family, and for Yahweh's comfort and peace to them. May Yahweh's will be done in all things. He is a wonderful Elohim. "...He giveth His beloved sleep." (Psalm 127:2) "Precious in the sight of Yahweh is the death of His saints." (Psalm 116:15)

See next issue for a Tribute to Matthew Nesser.

Housewives / Mother's Page

This story was sent to me by Mrs. Steve (Lisa) S. Thank-you, Lisa.

A Husband's Love

I don't exactly remember where I heard this story but I've never forgotten it. As the mother of both sons and daughters, it is a lesson on love that we often discuss. Lisa

There once was a young married couple who were quite unhappy. Oh, the young wife had been happy at first. She tried to be a good little wife and obey the Scriptural command to obey her husband. And all her little chores and deeds were done with warmth and love and joy. However, her husband became more cold and cranky each and every day. His unhappiness spilled out from him to those all around him, especially onto his sweet wife. He became very stern and strict, demanding complete obedience, reminding his wife that it was commanded in Ephesians 5:22-24, always stopping one verse short of the command for husbands to love their wives.

Each morning this man left his wife with a very large list of chores and tasks to be done perfectly before he returned home each night. Often the lists contained more things than her time allowed. But she always got the list done, fearing his wrath if she didn't. Their home was neat, clean, organized, but void of love, joy, and affection.

This continued for many years. One day her husband died. After her initial shock and grief wore off she returned to the daily routine keeping the house and yard in order. A few years later she met another nice man at a [Scripture] study. Fearing another harsh marriage with this man she paid him no attention. But he determined to win her affections. He often shared Scripture verses with her, brought her flowers, pretty pictures and gifts, but mostly he prayed for her. Over time he won her heart and eventually they married. They were both very happy, but deep inside her was the fear and expectation that this new husband would become cold and cranky and demanding. As the time passed her fears subsided as they fell into a pleasant daily routine.

A very long, long time later her job one day fell to cleaning the attic. She found some very old boxes from her first marriage. Inside that box

hidden in between some important papers was one of those lists of things to do her first husband gave her. So many memories flooded her. Deep sorrow and sadness for his unhappy life. For back then her lists were so long and hard. Her fuel for each day being fear and weariness. Be she now realized that every day she accomplished SO MUCH MORE and now she was pretty old too. This time though her fuel for each day was love and joy and warmth. She realized she loved serving her new husband and when she performed each task it was with a smile. She wondered how so much love could grow between one man and wife. She decided it grew a speck at a time with each smile, each kind word, each hug, each flower, each laugh. And so each speck adds up and after time you've got a pretty good pile of them.

That night after making his favorite dinner, they held hands and watched the sunset.

To view this and other stories online, go to www.JoyInTheWorld.info/youth

Children's Page

Love One Another part three

A RENEWED COMMAND by Mama Coover

Do you remember the Klondike family, Daddy, Mother, Loretta, Luke, and their Aunt Topsy? If not, you'll need to refer back to the previous two issues to RENEW your memory because space in this issue does not allow for a re-hash :-)



The Klondike family was gathered around the family room one Sabbath afternoon reading scriptures together as was their custom. Daddy had just read John 13:34 that says, "A NEW commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." Luke

sat with a puzzled look on his face. "Luke, is there something you're thinking?", queried Daddy.

"Well, I was just wondering why Yahshua said that he was giving them a NEW commandment, being to love one another, because didn't Yahweh ALWAYS want his people to love one another? What's so new about that?"

"That's a very good point you make, Luke," responded Daddy, "and I think you are absolutely correct. In Yahweh's plan, there are different steps of that plan along the way, but Yahweh's nature is the same yesterday, today, and forever, so the scriptures say. Yahweh IS love, we are told. So you are right in saying that for him to desire that we LOVE ONE ANOTHER is nothing new. But Yahshua came to earth and when he did, he EXPOUNDED on a lot of things. That means he went into more detail and explanation about some things that people had gotten goofed up about. Don't we all get goofed up at times and need someone to explain things better to us so we can get back on track?"

The whole family nodded enthusiastically in one accord.

Daddy continued, "So I think what Yahshua was doing was RE-newing the commandment to love one another. Sometimes we

might even KNOW that we're supposed to do something, but occasionally we need REMINDED. In other words, we need our perspective RENEWED so that we can focus on and do what needs to be done."

Loretta's expression suddenly revealed that a light had been turned on in her head. "Daddy," Loretta inserted, "That reminds me of the verse that says we are supposed to provide for our families. You know the one that says that he who doesn't do that is worse than an unbeliever. Well, we've all KNOWN that for a long time, but when Aunt Topsy came to live with us, that RENEWED that commandment for all of us!"

Mother smiled as she gave Aunt Topsy a hug. Aunt Topsy smiled too, but she also wiped a little tear off her cheek. "I love you all dearly," sniffled Aunt Topsy, "and I sure do know that since I came here to share my life with you all and you've shared yours with me, that love certainly has been renewed in my old heart."

"We all feel that way," beamed Mother, and she wiped a tear off her own cheek and gave Aunt Topsy another hug. Then the whole family joined in on one big mass-hug. LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

For other stories online, go to www.JoyInTheWorld.info/youth

Science With the Scriptures

See note on the "Scriptures: Let Us Study" page.

Creation Corner (copied from Shelter In The Word)

For I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are Thy works (Psalm 139:14)

by C. Frazier Spencer
frazier@corecomm.net

Introduction

Logically, there are only two alternatives. Either we are:

- 1) The result of a Creator Yahweh, or
- 2) The result of accidental evolution.

On the one hand is the [Scripture] which says it was written by a Being who is above *all other* elohim because He created the wood, stone, metals, the sun and stars; the *very things* which make up other elohim. Strong words indeed! (Psalm 95:3-5; 115:3-8; 135:5,15-18; Isaiah 44:all; Jeremiah 10:2-15). Moreover this Being write *He* is the given or life. (Job 33:4, Proverbs 4:4; 7:2; Romans 6:23; John 1:3-4) This being further writes in Romans 1:20 that the invisible things of Him are *clearly seen*, being understood by the things that are *made*.

Therefore *proving* the Creator Yahweh seems to be a logical starting place for people interesting [a new

Life]. Notice Paul used the Creator [Yahweh] as a starting place (Acts 17:24-25) when first revealing [Yahweh] to the pagan philosophers at Athens.

On the other hand is evolution which says every living things is the result of mindless, purposeless, accidental *chance*. It goes even further by saying humans "are just animals". Evolution is now taught in our schools and acclaimed by the media as established fact and has itself taken on many aspects of being a religion.

The goal of this column is to counter evolution doctrine by presenting some of the things that have been *made* so the Creator Yahweh can be *seen*.

Italics or underlining may have been added to the various quotes in this article.

Little Noticed Systems

In the air, all around us birds are darting back and forth. On the ground, the fields, forests, and of course our own backyards, there are field mice, squirrels, and various other small animals scurrying to and fro. Deer, muskrats, beavers, foxes, and other large animals inhabit rural areas and

forests. We are literally *surrounded* by all kinds of creatures busy doing their thing.

This vast multitude of creatures *live* - and then they *die*.

Yet, how often do we see the corpse of a dead bird, a dead squirrel, a dead rabbit, a dead deer, or whatever? Very rarely indeed. So rarely that when it does happen it seems to be so out of place that it troubles us for some little time. The same thing when we see an occasional man-killed road animal, that too generally troubles us.

But if we think about it for a minute - the ground *should be littered* with naturally dead birds and animals.

Why then do we see so little of dead things?

Ponder for a moment - is it by pure *accident* that there are so few dead carcasses to be seen? Is it by pure *accident* that with rare exception we can hike all day through a forest and never see a dead thing? Is it by pure *accident* that we can enjoy strolling a lake or ocean beach that seems in a pristine state with little or no dead litter that would spoil our enjoyment?

Or, could it possibly be *waste disposal systems* have been put in operation? Systems so quiet, so effective, so routine, that we don't even realize they are at work? Systems so effective that the only time we might think of them is when *one item* has *not* been taken care of?

A Thoughtful Example

John N. Clayton (1) writes the story about his family as they watched a National Audubon Society documentary on African wildlife. The segment was about a large herd of elephants. In the film, one of the elephants stopped and deposited a huge mass of dung on the ground.

We have seen similar happenings many times. But then came the penetrating logic of a child. The youngest daughter whispered to her father the question:

"Who cleans up the mess?"

Good question youngest daughter! One we ourselves should have asked. But instead we take it all for granted and don't even exercise child-like questioning wisdom.

You see, elephant messes *are* taken care of! Those who travel in Africa report they rarely see elephant dung on the ground. There *are* elephant mess cleaner-uppers that have been assigned that *very task*.

Scientists recognize the collectors and have named them *dung beetles*. Clayton explains, "When an elephant deposits a pile of dung, the odor of the material attracts the beetles. Within 15 minutes of being deposited over 3,800 beetles were observed on one sample studied by scientists. Within 30 minutes this sample of over 30 quarts of dung, weighing about 75 pounds, *was gone!*" Does that seem like an extremely efficient waste disposal system to you? It sure does to me.

Clayton continues, "The beetles had cut the dung into various sizes - from BB size to tennis ball size - and had *buried* the balls in the ground.

Each ball had a beetle egg placed in it. When the baby beetle hatches out of the egg it has all the food it will need until it is able to function on its own."

Consider for a moment if there were no elephant dung beetles. Just four elephants produce a metric *ton* of dung per day. As a constant week end visitor to Grandpa's farm, this writer has stepped around, and yes stepped *into* his share of cow pies, so I can well imagine the problems with odor, flies, germs, suffocation of vegetation, etc. that huge 75 pound piles of elephant pies all of over the place would cause!

You might think one specific beetle handles elephant dung. Not so. Actually there are over 2,000 species of dung beetles in Africa. Why so many? Wouldn't just one be enough to do the job? Clayton tells us,

"Well, with so many species, each with its own habits, the dung is scattered and spread out. Some beetles bury the balls as far as three feet under ground while others go just deep enough for it not be visible. Some beetles bury it on the spot, while others roll the ball to a distant location - sometimes as much as 150 feet away."

Is it possible there has been a carefully thought out scattering plan? Not only is the ground cleared of the dung, the burying also "fertilizes the soil at several different depths, it puts moisture into the soil that otherwise would evaporate, it aerates the soil by putting holes in it, and it provides food for the life forms that live below the soil."

Without Dung Beetles

What if there were no dung beetles? Obviously they are very important to the disposal of elephant dung. The book "Alien Empire" (2) gives us another example illustrating their importance. Cattle do not naturally occur in Australia. When cattle were imported, the only dung beetles available were those handling the hard, dry pellets produced by kangaroos. The author tells us:

"These native dung beetles could not cope with the soft cowpats produced by the vast herds of cattle. This created problems. Because the dung was not being disposed of, it acted as a superb breeding site for the bush fly, *Musca vetustissima*, which is a serious nuisance to both cattle and people. The scale of the problem is huge: each cow produces enough dung annually to cover about 13.5 acres."

The solution? "The African dung beetle, *Onthophagus ferox* was imported and now helps dispose of cattle dung in Australia."

The book, "Natural History of Insects" (3) gives more information about dung beetles. "One approach (by beetles) is to *construct* a series of branching subterranean chambers directly beneath the dung. This then lies conveniently to hand to be pulled down below and moulded into a spherical, pear-shaped or sausage-like brood mass."

Small Corpse Disposal

The author tells us how the corpses of some small animals are handled by the *Necrophorus* burying beetle. "A small animal corpse, such as a mouse,

is the trigger for a *complex* suite of behaviors, usually performed by a male and female working together....The pair toil away to scrape and bite the fur off the corpse as they gradually inter it inside a "crypt" beneath the ground. Once safely hidden from competitors, the nice clean-shave meaty corpse can now easily be molded into a more or less globular shape, in which the female chews a bowl-shaped depression. It is into this that the larvae eventually crawl, sticking out their tiny heads and begging for food from their parent's mouths, like chicks in a nest. Parents and offspring also communicate with each other through a series of chirps."

Bees, Another Example

Let's look at one of the tinier creatures. John N. Clayton (1) writes about a study done by Karl Visscher of Cornell University. His study shows "1% to 2% of a bee hive colony is devoted *solely* to the job of removing dead bees from the hive. These *undertaker bees* remove any bee that dies in the hive to a distance up to 400 feet away from the hive. To prove that these bees are truly selecting dead bees,...Visscher deposited freshly killed bees and balsa wood models that resembled dead bees into a hive."

"Within an average of seven minutes, the dead bees were removed from the hive, but it took more than seven hours for the models to be removed...more as a nuisance evidently" So the "undertakers" were shown to be legitimately after dead bees.

The reasons for such fast removal are obvious. Clayton explains, "by removing them, the diseases from which they might be dying are also removed from the other bees. Left to rot, the dead bees could draw undesirable scavengers and fungus that could threaten the hive."

As we ponder which is true, evolution or creation, we might consider a couple of questions:

1) If honeybees evolved, as some say from a fruit fly - becoming a 25% honeybee, to a 50% honeybee, to a 90% honeybee, finally to become a full 100% honeybee - if this is so, at what point did the undertaker bees evolve?

2) How does the undertaker bee ratio of 1 to 2% remain so constant? Just enough to do the job, yet not too many so as to burden the hive?

An Example Within Our Own Body

Inside our own bodies are several waste disposal systems. M. Scott Peck, M.D. (4) describes the marvelous system that heals a wound. The process includes *waste disposal*. The author writes, "Moving through the porous walls, the white blood cells (called "phagocytes" or eating cells) go to the diseased spot and gobble up dead cells, bacteria, dirt, and other debris. They actually *digest* this debris and then return through the porous walls into the blood vessels. It is a *remarkably efficient, microscopic garbage and collection service.*"

The Example Of Human Corpses

Upon our death another waste system kicks in. In my digestive system, and in yours, at this very moment, are bacteria ready to start the disposal system the minute death occurs.

In addition to those internal once, within working distance are various flies and insects ready to respond to scents that emanate from a new corpse thus signaling them to do their job of disposal. This part of the system is so exact, so well programmed, that detective story fans, such as this writer, are well aware scientists use disposal creatures' habits to make surprisingly accurate calculations regarding the time of human death.

This is because disposal insects follow an exact and pre-determined order.

In the book "Maggots, Murder and Men" (5) veteran Forensic Entomologist Dr. Zakaria Erzinglioglu explains this in more detail:

"As time passes and decomposition progresses, different insect species will be attracted to different stages of decay. Bluebottles and greenbottles will arrive to lay their eggs which hatch into maggots that feed voraciously on the tissues. Beetles will arrive, not only to feed upon the tissues, but also upon the maggots. Minute wasps will arrive to parasitize the maggots. Tiny flies, whose very existence remains unguessed by most people, will similarly arrive at various stages of decay and will leave tell-tale signs of their visits.

Myriads of other creatures will

arrive at various times, each to leave its mark for future interpretation by those who look into such things.

On the basis of the fact that anything that changes with time can be used as a clock, the succession of insects occurring on a dead body can, in principle, be exploited *as a measure of time since death.*"

Let's ask some questions. If all is in a race for the fittest, why don't all of these flies, beetles, and insects rush to a new body at the same time? What is holding them back? What makes them go only in their allotted turn. And await their turn with such regularity and patience? So regular and so consistent are they that man can devote a whole science to the study of them and the conclusions that can be drawn from their very consistency!

Could it be that a [Sovereign] Planner/programmer was responsible? Could it have been a [Sovereign] Planner/programmer who put together the arrangement of body temperature, odors, and the like and then programmed and matched those signals to the particular insect needed for each part of the job?

[.....]

How Important Is All of This?

How important to us anyway *is* an earth that has constant waste disposal?

In the book "Alien Empire" (2), this conclusion is made, "Without insects, we would be inundated with dead plant and animal material."

Another statement is this one,

"They (insects) process *more flesh* that all the large carnivores - crocodiles and alligators, lions, tigers, and wolves - put together."

In the book "The Secret Life of Germs" (6), the author says that without germs (and insects) "Before thousands of years had passed there wouldn't be an inch of ground left for plants to grow on or for other organisms to live on. *The very oceans would be thick with corpses.*"

"Without germs (and insects), all of the earth would soon be one great garbage dump and graveyard spinning *lifelessly* in space."

It seems as if constant waste disposal is vitally important.

In Summary

We have looked at the disposal of masses of elephant dung, the helpful scattering of that dung, learned the work of dung beetles is so important that they had to be imported into Australia, learned in detail how small corpses, like mice, are disposed of, learned about "undertaker" bees, considered waste disposal at a wound site of our own bodies, considered the various insects that operate on an exact time schedule to aid the breakdown of a human corpse, and been told waste disposal is vital to continued life on our planet.

We have just scratched the surface on this subject. It is hoped sufficient examples have been presented so readers can agree there *are* in fact quiet and highly efficient waste disposal systems in place all around us. So

efficient and so smoothly operating we take little notice of them. But if they would cease to operate for just a few days, we would soon notice it very much indeed!

So now we come to the question: Are all of these waste disposal systems the result of evolution which admittedly is:

Mindless, Purposeless, Accidental chance?

Or, are they more logically the result of:

Planning, Design, [Sovereign] programming, An intelligent, purposeful Creator?

Which makes more sense to you?

Endnotes: (1) Dandy Designs, Vol. I 1984 and Vol. II 1991, published by John N. Clayton, S. Bend, IN, now Niles, MI 49120. (2) Authors Rod and Ken Preston-Mafham, published 1996 by Crowood Press, Ramsbury England. (3) Chris O'Toole, author, published 1995 by BBC Books, Books, London, England (4) "A World Waiting to be Born" published 1993 by Bantam Books. (5) Published 2000 by St. Martin's Press, New York, NY 10010 (6) Philip M. Tierno, Jr., Ph.D. author, published 2001 by Pocketbooks, New York, N.Y. 10020

Note: I restored the Hebrew Names (e.g. **Yahweh** instead of **God**) and "safer words" (e.g. **Ruler** instead of **Lord**) to this article. For more of an explanation, see, "**Please take note:**" on the inside of the cover page. Thank-you! Rebekah

Ads

Joyful Motherhood is a lovely magazine for young ladies put out by Christina Grubb and co-editors Melody and Faith (Christina's sisters). It is one of my favorite magazines! It is "a magazine of encouragement for Christian young ladies to become joyful homemakers and mothers in Christ Jesus, our Lord". Send \$3 (or four 60 cent stamps) for a year's subscription (four issues). Do you want to order a gift subscription for someone else? "Gift subscriptions are available for the charge of nothing. Just write for a free Gift Certificate, which will be sent along the recipient's first issue (please send a SASE). Blessings!"

JOYFUL MOTHERHOOD editors say, "Our goal in publishing JM is to light the dead candles of homemaking in the many hearts of young and old women. We hope that the many stories, articles, poems, etc. will touch your heart and give you that yearning for the role of wife and mother, if the Lord has marriage in your future. :-)"

Do you have an ad that you would like us to print here. Send it to **Road of the Pilgrims - Post Office Box 7 - Shippensburg, PA 17257** We ask that if at all possible you send a sample of the thing you want advertised, along with the ad.

connotations of a word = the feelings and ideas
associated with a word

Lydia and I were having a discussion on alphabet letters and words. We both think that "a" seems red and "g" seems green. I told her that "b" seems blue.

She didn't really think so.

She did say that the word "friend" seems fat to her and that "blue" seems tall and dead. :-) These are connotations for you! :-) -

Rebekah



The Missionary Column

Does not the Scripture say: "For what shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" Are we busy trying to evangelize the world, while neglecting our own souls? Do we truly know Messiah in our lives?

My Personal Testimony Of How Messiah Became A Part Of Me

by Rebekah J. Coover

(This is a letter that I wrote to one of my penpals.)

Greetings in the Name of our precious Saviour Yahshua Messiah, from Rebekah Josepha, an handmaiden of our Holy Ruler. Yahweh, our marvelous Creator and Elohim shed His peace in your heart this day. He who has saved us by His remarkable and beautiful mercy ought to be highly praised! May we praise Him with deepest adoration, with our lives, with the words we speak, through the things we do; all in all, may we declare Him in truth. For the scripture saith, THEREFORE, WHETHER YE EAT, OR DRINK, OR WHATEVER YOU DO, DO ALL TO THE ESTEEM OF YAHWEH. 1 Yea, and may we abide by this command. What a challenge! I beseech you, dear sister, remember that there are many more commands given by Yahweh than "The 10 Commandments". We, that is, you

and I and all believers, ought to remember this. There are many commands all through the Scriptures, scattered across Its precious pages, commands for us to follow wholeheartedly; and they are found in more places than "The Books Of The Law". The whole Book of Scriptures is the Book of the Laws of Yahweh, of the Requirements For Life In Messiah, of the Recompense For Sin, of the Reward For Righteousness, and... and, my dear sister, this Blessed Book shows the Way of Salvation. And thus to proceed to what you asked of me, that is, my personal testimony of how I found the Ruler Yahshua Messiah, of how He became a part of me. And yea, I AM CRUCIFIED WITH MESSIAH, NEVERTHELESS I LIVE, YET NOT I, BUT MESSIAH LIVETH IN ME; AND THE LIFE WHICH I NOW

LIVE IN THE FLESH, I LIVE BY THE FAITH OF THE SON OF YAHWEH, WHO LOVED ME AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME. FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOOD NEWS OF MESSIAH, FOR IT IS THE POWER OF YAHWEH UNTO SALVATION TO EVERYONE THAT BELIEVETH, TO THE JEW FIRST AND ALSO TO THE GENTILE. 2 And how marvelous that He expanded the faith to all nations, not only to the literal seed of Israel, but yea, He also maketh us His spiritual Israel. Not only recently, but back in the days of the Israelis, the tabernacle, the animal sacrifices, etc., it was said of Yahweh, ONE LAW, AND ONE MANNER SHALL BE FOR YOU, AND FOR THE STRANGER THAT SOJOURNETH WITH YOU. 3 How beautiful! And we were strangers, but now ARE A CHOSEN GENERATION, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A SET APART NATION, A PECULIAR PEOPLE, THAT [WE] SHOULD SHEW FORTH THE PRAISES OF HIM WHO HATH CALLED [US] OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT: WHICH IN TIME PAST WERE NOT A PEOPLE (We were the strangers, the Gentiles, the aliens.), BUT NOW ARE THE PEOPLE OF YAHWEH: WHICH HAD NOT OBTAINED MERCY, BUT NOW HAVE OBTAINED MERCY. 4 And regarding mercy, the scripture doth say, HE THAT COVERETH HIS SINS SHALL NOT PROSPER, BUT WHOSO CONFESSETH AND FORSAKETH THEM SHALL HAVE MERCY. 5 Yea, and when we come to the knowledge of our Ruler

and Saviour, we are to forsake the world; as the song goes, "I have decided to follow Yahshua... The world behind me, Yahshua before me... Though none go with me, I still will follow, No turning back, no turning back." 6

Thus the preliminaries are over, and I would like to speak of that which you mentioned in your most recent letter. You asked me for my personal testimony of salvation. How great the Elohim of Israel has been to me, and I have eagerly anticipated giving my testimony to you. Consequently, here it is.

For a bit of background, my wonderful parents were both raised in unrighteous homes, and received little spiritual instruction. Yahweh, however, through His marvelous mercy, picked them up and put them on "the HalleluYah line, on the good old gospel train", 7 and they embarked on a marvelous journey of searching for truth. And now He has brought them to where they now stand, and He will take them farther; but the point of this is to say that He picked them up out of sin, and I must say that He has blessed me with a fine set of parents. I have always been home schooled, thus being saved the horrors of public education, and thus being protected in mind and heart and spirit from many evils that could have otherwise defiled me. My parents are not afraid to shelter us from the evils of the world, and they have been marvelous. I owe my gratitude to my parents, and ultimately to my Elohim, for the peace that I have in my heart and for the fact that I am held in the

Hand of the Almighty.

I remember well that one afternoon, dad came out in the side yard, and with the love and concern that only a parent can have, he told us that he was going to take us to a stream to be baptized. That was when I was eight years old. He showed us how he would take us down in the water, demonstrating on us so that we would understand, and then we went to the stream where my parents were baptized. He did not force baptism on us. My dear mother, who was very sick, so sick that she had thought she might even die, permitted dad to immerse her in the water, as an example to us. My precious mother! How can I thank you? There my brother and I were baptized. (My sister was baptized several years later.) I was baptized, immersed in the water, as a sign of my dying to the flesh and putting on Messiah. Only a child, yes, but did not Messiah say, SUFFER THE LITTLE CHILDREN TO COME UNTO ME, AND FORBID THEM NOT: FOR OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF YAHWEH? 8 Yes, and I was baptized by my own dear father. He took me up from the water, held me and kissed me. Precious father! Thank-you for caring, for leading, for loving. He told me that we would receive the Holy Spirit baptism, and that we would know when we received it. I do not particularly remember feeling a special Holy Spirit baptism, but I know that little by little, grain by grain, He has entered my life,

making me fuller, and He will continue to enter me more fully as time progresses. I have grown immensely, and will continue to grow more. How great the Father is! I have much to learn, many faults, many weaknesses; but at the same time, I love my Ruler dearly. Oh, may I love Him with all my heart and soul! He is here for me. I can call on Him any time. He knows that I need to work on many things, and He cares. Thank-You, Heavenly Father.

[closing paragraph - not part of testimony; not printed]

1. First Corinthians 10:31 2. Galatians 2:20, Romans 1:16 3. Numbers 15:16 4. 1 Peter 2:9-10 5. Proverbs 28:13 6. "I Have Decided To Follow Yahshua" 7. "I Am Traveling On The HalleluYah Line" 8. Mark 10:14

To view this online, go to www.JoyInTheWorld.info/articles

Would you like to share your personal testimony? I'd love to hear it, and to publish it in Road of the Pilgrims if you like. Should you decide to send your personal testimony, please do not include any specific details of a sinful former life. Give the good news of rejoicing, for the edification of all readers. Blessings. Rebekah

Notable Stories To Retell

Questions Prompted By The Islamic Religion by Mrs. L. B.

After services some young people were fellowshiping outdoors, a short distance from where their parents stood. Paula was telling Edith about something she had read concerning Islam. They ALL wanted to hear more.

"This author writing about Islam surely got me thinking," Paula was saying. Her younger sister quickly laughed expressing her sincere comment: "Now that IS unusual!" Several of the group smiled, but told her to hush, as they wanted to hear more.

So Paula continued, "The pamphlet I read revealed a connection between the ancient pagan religion of the Moon god and Islam. As I read more, my mind turned to Easter and what a reference book had revealed -- that the name Easter came for Ashtareth (Eostre) a pagan goddess of the sun religion. I asked myself what is so bad with Islam still practicing the moon god religion-- if our churches are still practicing Easter-- OR should we be retaining a pagan goddess' name in worshiping [Messiah]?"

Many listening to Paula were wide-eyed in amazement. Some clearly shook their heads as if to say, 'No, we shouldn't.' Edith only replied, "The apostles never did observe Easter! But I did hear a pastor say that the people have been believing in Easter for so long now that they would find it hard to change."

"But why not?" asked Paula. "Oh, something interesting! The author met a cab driver in Washington, D.C. who was from Iran. They got to talking about the Islamic religion. And the cab driver said that by adopting the ancient pagan things of the moon god, it helped their religion to convert more people throughout the Middle East to the Muslim religion.

Edith quickly interrupted with: "Hey! that is exactly what I've read in the Encyclopedias and other reference books, that the church at Rome, many centuries ago, adopted pagan practices which increased their converts-- that was their purpose too!"

Charlie quietly had listened, but now voiced his thoughts. "I would think that [Yahweh] wouldn't like mixed worship of Him-- at least that is what I've gotten from the Bible." Paula answered, "Yes, the author that revealed the errors of the Islam religion used 2 Cor. 6:14-17, which

condemns any attempt to mingle [Messiah] with Baal (a pagan deity). So having Easter worship services for [Messiah], puts [Messiah] AND Baal (Ashtareth, Easter, Eostre) together, as if Messiah is just another pagan deity!"

Another young person couldn't help but voice it this way. "What an abomination to our [Yahshua]!" And even another asked, "Doesn't the first of the Ten commandments (Ex. 20:3) strongly reveal that [Yahweh] hates to share worship with another so-called deity? I wonder! wouldn't [Yahshua] hate a day to honor HIM with a day called by a pagan goddess' name? Hey! another thing, does it really say in the Bible that we are to have a DAY to observe His resurrection?"

Paula was thinking of answering these questions when she felt a tug at her hand. Looking down at her hand she saw her five-year-old cousin. Her tiny voice said, "I know who you are talking about!" "Who?" Paula asked. So Becky quickly eased herself up on her tippy toes (perhaps thinking they could hear her better) and nearly shouted, "The lady called Easter, who gives me those pretty colored eggs and candy every Easter!"

Most in the crowd caught the atmosphere of amusement with little Becky's enthusiasm-- but then their faces revealed how a pathetically false teaching was revealed in Becky's little mind. Paula reached down to hug Becky, saying, "Sweet Becky, we can get you pretty candy anytime without an Easter day or Easter lady." Turning now to Edith and the others she said, "But yes, it is due to that idol named Easter that gives us today the ritual of Easter eggs, rabbits, etc. I have to admit I can't see what it has to do with [Messiah] coming out of the grave!"

At that point in the conversation, Becky's parents began to come look for her. Becky turned towards her mother with: "They were telling ME about the lady named Easter!" Her mother looked puzzled, but off they went, waving good bye to the crowd of young people. The rest began to part too, but they left with heavy hearts-- thoughtful! The Holy Spirit would be able to do His work in their hearts. Truth begins to work in the few hearts that love truth rather than traditions of men (2 Thess. 2:10-12).

Webster's Dictionary affirms that "Easter comes from the name of the old Teuton goddess of spring. He states that the early Anglo-Saxson spelling was EASTRE...

Would you consider it pleasing to the Almighty Father to use the names of pagan gods or goddesses, integrating them with [the worship of Yahweh] as long as we first somehow "Christianize" or "sanctify" them- - giving them a new meaning? Suppose we decide to make a [set-apart]

day out of the day the Saviour was baptized? We don't know when that day was anymore than folks know the day he was born; so we'd select a day the pagans used to hold a feast on, and call it "Dagoon Day" ...Would that be all right?

In reply to these questions you should observe that the Almighty plainly told His people, Israel, NOT to "mention the name of other gods" (Ex. 23:13, Josh. 23:7)... [The Ruler] did NOT intend for Israel to salvage the NAMES of idols and use them in WORSHIPING HIM!

...Astarte, Ishtar, and Eostre is Semiramis, the Queen of Babylon ...

-G. M. Bowers

(This was sent to us by Mrs. Lorene B., the author of it.) (Lorene, just a note: I changed the "Christs" to "Messiahs", "Lords" to "Rulers" and "God" (when referring to the Almighty) to "Yahweh". Recently we have been studying and finding out some unpleasant things about the words "Christ", "Lord", and "God". Thank-you for understanding, and for the excellent story. Love, Rebekah)

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